

Message Text

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ACTION EUR-25

INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 INRE-00

GAC-01 ACDA-19 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 IO-12 OMB-01 TRSE-00

RSR-01 /130 W

----- 007421

P R 071004 Z APR 73

FM AMEMBASSY BONN

TO SECSTATE WASHDC PRIORITY 4360

INFO AMEMBASSY LONDON

AMEMBASSY PARIS

AMEMBASSY MOSCOW

AMEMBASSY ROME

AMEMBASSY VIENNA

USMISSION NATO BRUSSELS

USMISSION EC BRUSSELS

USMISSION BERLIN

SECDEF WASHDC

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VIENNA FOR MBFR DEL

E. O. 11652: N/A

TAGS: PFOR, GW

SUBJECT: GERMAN PRESS REACTION TO ANNOUNCEMENT OF
BRANDT'S MEETING WITH PRESIDENT NIXON

1. SUMMARY: ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE MAY 1-2 NIXON- BRANDT
SUMMIT WAS THE NUMBER ONE ITEM IN THE NEWS COLUMNS AND
EDITORIAL COMMENTARIES OF THE APRIL 5 WEST GERMAN PRESS.
THE BRANDT VISIT WAS GENERALLY HAILED AS COMING AT
EXACTLY THE RIGHT TIME. MOST PAPERS ADDRESSED THE
CURRENT CONTROVERSY IN GERMANY OVER " ANTI- AMERICANISM",
TERMING IT EXAGGERATED AND PREDICTING THAT THE
BRANDT VISIT WOULD RE- ENFORCE GOOD US- FRG RELATIONS AND
WOULD REDOUBLE THE CHANCELLOR'S INTENTION TO " LAY DOWN
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THE LAW" TO YOUNG RADICALS AT THE HANNOVER SPD CONVENTION. END SUMMARY.

2. MOST GERMAN PAPERS REVIEWED THE NIXON- BRANDT MEETING IN THE DUAL CONTEXT OF THE APRIL 10 SPD PARTY CONVENTION IN HANNOVER AND THE MID- MAY BREZHNEV VISIT TO WEST GERMANY. THERE WAS WIDE AGREEMENT THAT THE LEADERSHIP OF THE SOCIAL DEMOCRATS WOULD USE THE OPPORTUNITY OF THE FORTHCOMING SPD CONVENTION TO STRESS ONCE AGAIN THE CONTINUED NEED FOR ATLANTIC PARTNERSHIP AND THE DECISIVE IMPORTANCE OF THE AMERICAN COMMITMENT TO EUROPE BOTH FOR THE SECURITY OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC AND FOR THE FRG' S OSTPOLITIK. THE FACT THAT CHANCELLOR BRANDT WILL MEET WITH PRESIDENT NIXON BEFORE BREZHNEV' S VISIT TO BONN IS GENERALLY INTERPRETED AS A CLEAR SIGNAL SAYING WHERE THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC STANDS. AS THE INDEPENDENT STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG PUT IT, " THIS SIGNAL MAKES IT CLEARER THAN SO MANY SPEECHES THAT BRANDT AND WITH HIM THE LARGE MAJORITY OF HIS PARTY, DO NOT EVEN DREAM OF PERMITTING ANY FIDDLING WITH THE FOUNDATION OF THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC' S SECURITY AND FREEDOM." IN THIS CONTEXT THE PRO- OPPOSITION PAPER DIE WELT ADDED THAT BRANDT' S TALKS WITH NIXON ARE BOUND TO LEAD TO AGREEMENTS THAT WILL LEAVE LESS ROOM FOR SEPARATE GERMAN-SOVIET MOVES.

3. THE ANNOUNCEMENT OF THE NIXON- BRANDT MEETING WAS ALSO VIEWED BY THE PRESS IN CONNECTION WITH THE CURRENT CONTROVERSY REGARDING ALLEGED ANTI- AMERICANISM IN THE FRG. MANY PAPERS EXPRESSED THE OPINION THAT THIS MEETING WILL SERVE TO DAMPEN SUCH " SPECULATION AND AGITATION". THE INDEPENDENT LEFT- CENTER SUEDEDEUTSCHE ZEITUNG PLACES GERMAN- AMERICAN RELATIONS IN THE FOLLOWING RATHER DEFENSIVE PRESPECTIVE: QTE A CLOSER STUDY OF CERTAIN ANTI- AMERICAN SENTIMENTS REVEALS THAT DISPUTES OVER A MILITARY TRAINING GROUND ARE NOT THE RESULT OF A GENERAL AMI GO HOME SENTIMENT, THAT THE FINAL PHASE OF THE VIETNAM WAR WAS CONTROVERSIAL THROUGHOUT THE WORLD, THAT NOT ONLY THE GERMANS LOOK UPON THE ROAMING BILLIONS OF EURO DOLLARS AS A SOURCE OF RECURRENT MONETARY CRISES, AND THAT THE MOTION OF THE SPD YOUNG SOCIALISTS AGAINST FUTURE OFFSET PAYMENTS

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HAS NO CHANCE OF WINNING A MAJORITY AT THE SPD CONVENTION AND HAS EVEN LESS CHANCE OF BEING ACCEPTED BY THE GOVERNMENT. END QTE

4. NOTING THE CURRENT STRONG CONGRESSIONAL PRESSURE FOR UNILATERAL FORCE CUST, THE STUTTGARTER ZEITUNG OBSERVES THAT IT IS OF SPECIAL IMPORTANCE AT THIS TIME TO KEEP GERMAN- AMERICAN RELATIONS FREE OF DISCORD. THE STUTTGART PAPER GOES ON TO SAY THAT PRESSURE FROM MANSFIELD SUPPORTERS REPRESENTS ONLY A SYMPTOM OF A PROFOUND CHANGE IN THE AMERICAN VIEW OF THE ROLE OF THE US IN INTERNATIONAL POLITICS. THE PAPER CONTINUES THAT AFTER THE VIETNAM EXPERIENCE MANY AMERICANS NOW WISH THEIR COUNTRY TO RID ITSELF AS MUCH AS POSSIBLE OF INTERNATIONAL RESPONSIBILITY. THE NIXON DOCTRINE

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INFO OCT-01 ADP-00 CIAE-00 PM-09 H-02 INR-10 L-03 NSAE-00

NSC-10 PA-03 RSC-01 PRS-01 SS-15 USIA-12 INRE-00

ACDA-19 MBFR-03 SAJ-01 GAC-01 IO-12 TRSE-00 OMB-01

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POINTED IN THIS DIRECTION, TOO, BUT IN CONTRAST TO THE NEO- ISOLATIONISTS IN CONGRESS, THE PRESIDENT WANTS TO PROCEED SELECTIVELY, BY CLEARLY DISTINGUISHING BETWEEN AREAS LIKE SOUTHEAST ASIA, WHICH ARE OF LESSER IMPORTANCE TO AMERICAN SECURITY, AND AN AREA LIKE EUROPE, WHICH IS A DECISIVE FACTOR IN THE MAINTENANCE OF THE SUPERPOWER BALANCE OF POWER UPON WHICH WORLD PEACE DEPENDS.

5. WRITING IN THE SPD PARTY WEEKLY VORWAERTS, HEINZ LOHFELDER TERMS REPORTS OF " ESTRANGEMENT" BETWEEN THE US AND FRG " CONTRARY TO REASON". AFTER REPROACHING THE CDU/ CSU OPPOSITION FOR IRRESPONSIBILITY EXPLOITING THE CONTROVERSY, THE VORWAERTS ARTICLE ACKNOWLEDGES UNCLASSIFIED

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THAT " THERE ARE INDEED DIFFICULTIES AND SOME LEFTIST QUARTERS. . . ARE TRYING TO PLAY A RISKY POLITICAL GAME, THEREBY EXPOSING US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS TO STRAIN AND CHALLENGE". LOHFELDER CONTINUES AS FOLLOWS: QTE WEST EUROPE' S SECURITY CONTINUES TO DEPEND ON THE US TROOP PRESENCE. THIS DOES NOT MEAN THAT THERE SHOULD BE NO DISCUSSION ON WHETHER THE FRG SHOULD BE THE ONLY EUROPEAN COUNTRY TO PAY FOR THESE TROOPS, . . . BUT WHAT REMAINS UNCHALLENGED. . . FOR QUITE SOME TIME TO COME IS THE NECESSITY OF MAINTAINING THE DIRECT US ENGAGEMENT IN EUROPE. . . THE TREND IN US- EUROPEAN RELATIONS IS TOWARD EQUAL RIGHTS, ALTHOUGH EUROPE CONTINUES TO DEPEND ON THE US IN ALL FIELDS OF POLITICAL, ECONOMIC, AND SECURITY POLICY. DETENTE POLICY WITHOUT CLOSE US COOPERATION IS IMPOSSIBLE. THE RESPONSIBLE POLITICAL LEADERS IN THE US AND WESTERN EUROPE CERTAINLY SHOULD BE ABLE TO COPE WITH THE SITUATION SUCCESSFULLY. PRESIDENT NIXON' S (ANNOUNCED) POSITION ON MAINTAINING THE US MILITARY ENGAGEMENT IS A MAJOR CONTRIBUTION IN THIS REGARD. END QTE HILLENBRAND

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